

RUMSON RECREATION COMMISSION

Aug 21, 2013

Minutes

Attendance

Chairman Lembeck called the regular meeting to order at 7:12pm. The following members were present: Lembeck, Bavuso, Chandler, Dengler, McGinty and Shanley. Commission Member MacGillis was absent. Council Members DeVoe and Day were absent.

Also present: Sarah Orsay, Recreation Director

Public Portion

No members of the public were present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. McGinty called for approval of the Jun 2013 Minutes, Mr. Shanley seconded, and the Minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairman's Announcements

None.

Director's Report

Parks

General – Ms. Orsay reported that the rainy, cool weather worked in our favor in terms of allowing fields to rest & repair. The soccer goals are up and the fields are lined for the Fall sports.

Meadow Ridge – Girl Scouts Katie Amendola and Elizabeth Horan are beautifying MRE for the Silver Award project.

Martello – Despite the Commission's June recommendation to rest the field, we are allowing AYF to use it for practices as they did not have time to find alternate space. If need be, we will rest it in the Spring and find an alternate location for Girls 3/4 Lacrosse.

Aeration of all the fields is scheduled for the second week in November after Travel Soccer is finished. We will also patch MRC with sod after the Fall season ends.

Recreation Programs

RFH Summer Rowing – We had a great showing at all levels of our summer rowing program, GR 6-8, High School and Masters. Total 139 student participants, with numerous participants attending more than one session, and 12 Masters.

Stand Up Paddle (SUP) – Our two kids camps sold out and we received positive feedback from adults on our two adult/teen programs.

Summer Hoops: The season ran Jul 1 – Jul 31, but we had numerous weather cancellations, so seemed like a short season, nonetheless had 150 registrants and received positive feedback. Participation decreased dramatically the last week due to other commitments.

Summer Playground: Ran July 1 – Aug 2. Only one weather cancellation and highlight events included a huge bouncy obstacle course. We had approximately 280 participants, down 10% from last year, a decline consistent with our other 2013 programs.

Summer Camps: Ms Orsay gave a report on how the summer camps performed.

- **Sourlis RFH Co-Ed Basketball camp** experienced a drop in enrollment, but this is likely due to the timing of the July 4th holiday and school running late due to SuperStorm Sandy.
- **Shempy Bulldog Basketball Camp** remains popular, as does **Fallon's Football camp**.
- **Track Camp** was new this year. The second week had low attendance and Ms. Orsay suggested that Coach Lippart do a demo event in April to drum up interest.
- **Third party soccer camps** for older children were cancelled due to lack of enrollment. Tot camps were somewhat popular.
- **Chess Camp** had 12 kids enrolled, which was disappointing to the instructor, Mr. Kenney, who travels down from Fort Lee and said he will have to raise prices substantially next year, have a min of 18 enrolled by March 1. Ms. Orsay will look for an instructor closer to home for next summer.
- New this summer, **LEGO** and **Mad Science Camps** were new this year and very popular. Both had two one week session and LEGO sold out.

Fall Programs: **Soccer** and **Flag Football** registration is complete. Soccer has approximately 565 registrants and Flag, 280, down about 10% from 2012. We anticipate late registration to continue even as season begins. Ages 9/10 Flag was cancelled due to lack of enrollment. Team selection is complete, equipment & uniforms have been handed out. We upgraded the Ages 7-10 Flag uniforms to jerseys from tees, which include the Touchdown Club Logo. The soccer jerseys lost in the storm have been replaced. The Fall Rec season starts on September 7th and runs through Nov 2nd.

The Commission members discussed whether or not mouth guards should be required in Flag Football, as supposed to the current policy of strongly recommended. Ms. Orsay will research what is the norm in other programs.

New this year: the winner of the Rumson Rec Town Soccer Tournament will play the winner of the Fair Haven Town Tournament on Nov 2 and Flag Football will have playoffs or a tournament on the last day of the season.

The one week Rec **August Soccer Clinic** led by Jersey Premier Soccer was a success with 46 registered, evenly spread across each age group. Ms. Orsay received very positive feedback from parents.

Ms. Orsay asked RFHRHS Athletic Director and Soccer Coaches if they would like to host clinics similar to baseball and girls LAX. They expressed interest and will come back to Orsay. Realistically, may end up being a 2014 Aug event.

Travel Soccer/Travel Basketball – We are in the process of completing on-line registrations (Soccer, 170; Basketball, 133). We had a few glitches in terms of communicating the on-line process, but overall a huge improvement in terms of Registration.

Special Events

Family Fun Nights at Victory Park took place as planned with Yosi & the SuperDads on July 7; Ron Albanese and the Polka Dots on July 28th, and Miss Sherri's Animal Band on Aug 11; Miss Melissa's Aardvark Band on Aug 25th. In general, these were marked by attendance from 50 -120people, with perhaps 1/3 from Rumson. Ms. Orsay suggested that we were hampered on a two occasions by poor weather, but also suggested that next year need to advertise earlier through the schools, not just direct mail and social media. She also proposed that next summer we do at most one concert in June, July, August and start at 6pm or earlier, versus 7pm. After some discussion, it was proposed that we consider doing a **Family Day at Victory Park** with "bouncy" castles, pony rides, face painting and ending at 5pm with a family concert. All were in favor of pursuing this idea for 2014.

Projects

CPR/Emergency Training – Mr. Shanley suggested we do this in coordination with the installation of the defibrillators.

Defibrillators in the Parks - We are still waiting for the state contract to be awarded.

Administrative

Background Checks Coaches' background checks & **Concussion Course** completion are proceeding smoothly and we have anticipate having over 20 volunteer coaches participate in the **Rutgers SAFETY Certification Course** on September 19.

Committee Reports

Baseball – See New Business

RFH Rowing – Ms. Orsay updated the Commission on the failed merger talks between RFH Rowing and RFH Crew. Bottom line: there was an insurmountable clash of cultures between RFH Rowing, which is run in the model of a high school club program with independent coaches, a professional administrator and supported by a parent Booster club versus RFH Crew, a parent run organization in which a very small group of parents make every decision including hiring the coaches, how practices are run, what equipment to buy. RFH Rowing submitted a formal proposal, which was rejected by RFH Crew. Ultimately, there was no compromise acceptable to both sides.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Orsay walked through the analysis of the Treasurer's report. Highlights included a review of waivers for public safety volunteers, late fees collected, and Credit Card fees, which amounted to 2.6% per transaction.

The July 31 report included net proceeds that will be paid out to third party Summer Camp Directors. Orsay recommended that the \$5 per participant Admin Fee be raised to \$10, commensurate with Fair Haven and more consistent reimbursement for the extensive work involved by the various Borough professionals involved in facilitating these programs (Rec, Finance, DPW, Reception).

Old Business

Ms. Orsay will present a specific recommendation on **2014 Field / Facility Fees** at the Oct or Nov meeting, which were approved in concept at the June meeting.

New Business

Mr. Bavuso reported that he and Ms. Orsay have been working with representatives from four other towns (Fair Haven, Red Bank, Shrewsbury, Little Silver), to transition Rumson's rec baseball and softball programs to Little League. He presented the proposal, including the organizational structure of two charters (Rumson/Fair Haven & Shrewsbury, LS, RB), all under one Board. Ms. Chandler recommended that the motion be approved, Mr. McGinty seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed.

Borough Recreation Ordinance Review Recommendations – The Borough Council will have its annual ordinance review in September and asked the Rec Commission for any recommended changes:

- **Youth Volunteer Background Check** – adopted several years ago and stipulates Background Checks will be redone every 3 years. The Commission voted unanimously to continue this policy (Bavuso raised the motioned, Chandler seconded) and Orsay plans to arrange for Sagem Morpho to conduct Background Checks locally in the spring. This will require an additional \$5 surcharge to each Check, but seems worth the additional expense for the convenience of our volunteers.
- **Facility Fees** – The Rec Comm will ask the Council to approve in concept field and facility fees for for-profit and non-Rec sponsored travel teams, and non-local groups beginning January 1, 2014. The Commission will recommend a fee schedule to the Borough at the September or October RC meeting.

- **Public Safety Volunteer Fee Waiver** – currently, all Fire & EMS public safety volunteers serving on Rumson squads receive a fee waiver for their child(ren)'s participation in all Rec programs in which Rumson Borough retains the revenue. With the increased number of programs, including the relatively expensive crew program, the amount in waivers has increased substantially. The Commission agreed unanimously to recommend continuing this policy, despite the increased cost.

Camps – several Camp Directors requested that we allow out-of-town children to participate in our Rumson Rec Sponsored summer programs, particularly those who attend school in Rumson but do not live in Rumson or Fair Haven. The proposal suggested that the out-of-town participants would be allowed to register only after the Open Registration period for residents and would therefore have to pay the \$25 Late Fee. In this way, residents would not be disadvantaged by their inclusion. The Commission unanimously rejected this proposal as Rumson Rec's mission is to provide programs for residents – and many of our camps also include Fair Haven in this definition – not increase the revenues for for-profit Camp Directors. This consideration includes the fact that Camp Directors run these camps at virtually no cost for using facilities supported by local taxpayers. It was also felt that this might lead to overcrowding of camps.

Closed Session – Ms. Orsay asked for a closed discussion to update the Commission on a potential 2014-2015 Grant Proposal. The session was closed from 8.42-8.50pm.

Change to 2014 Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule – Ms. Orsay & Mr. Lembeck proposed changing the 2014 meeting schedule such that the Commission meet in February and skip December, while July will continue to be skipped unless a meeting is deemed to be necessary. No meetings will be scheduled during public school vacation periods. Mr. Dengler raised the motion be passed, Mr. Shanley seconded, and the motion was unanimously passed.

The session ended at 8.55pm and the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: September 18, 2013, 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Sarah Orsay
Director of Parks & Recreation
Borough of Rumson**